

HAILEY'S ON IT!

"Dude, Where's My Cousin?"

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INT. U.F.DOUGH - NIGHT

We start on a CU of SUNNY'S face, looking unusually stern.

SUNNY

No picking your nose. No eating
with your feet. And for the love
of crust, no beat-boxing with your
armpits!

REVEAL: SCOTT and BECKER sitting in a booth. Becker picks
her nose and holds a CHICKEN DRUMSTICK in her bare toes,
while Scott cups his armpit with one hand. Scott raises his
other hand and starts to talk, but Sunny cuts him off.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Or with each other's arm pits!

Scott quickly lowers his hand. They sit up.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Just do me a favor, DON'T be
yourselves.

Sunny hurries away, and HAILEY slips into their booth.

HAILEY

Whoa! I haven't seen your mom this
stressed since that health
inspector found your retainer in
the marinara. What's going on?

SCOTT

Our Imo Grace is visiting from
Orange County. Which means we have
to watch our 11-year-old cousin
Ruthie for the entire night while
our moms go to the opera.

HAILEY

What's up with your cousin? Is she
mean?

BECKER

Worse. She's "perfect."

KRISTINE stops by the booth.

KRISTINE

My ears are burning! For real, my ears are burning. I tried to take a selfie with the pizza oven. What are we talking about?

SCOTT

Our cousin. She's a music genius, a tennis master...

BECKER

...an annoying tattletale, zero fun, and always just there!

RUTHIE (11, well-dressed) appears beside them like a ghost:

RUTHIE

Who's always where?

Scott <JUMPS>. The front door opens. GRACE (early 40s, dignified) enters.

GRACE

Greetings, everyone!

Becker swipes a slice of pizza from the buffet.

RUTHIE

Mom! Becker just stole food without paying for it!

Becker <GROANS>, takes a bite and <DROPS> the slice.

HAILEY

You must be Ruthie! I'm Scott's BFF Hailey. What's up?

RUTHIE

The price of gas, unemployment, my father's cholesterol...

HAILEY

Oh, you are a fun one.

GRACE

Scott, Becker, take good care of my Ruthie tonight!

SCOTT

No problem, Imo Grace! We've got delicious food, great music, and fun arcade machines!

RUTHIE

I'm on a no-fun-food diet, loud songs gives me headaches, and our family doesn't participate in games of chance.

Sunny rushes out with a TRACK SUIT and a POKER VISOR.

SUNNY

Okay, Grace, let's hit the slots!
I mean, **the opera**.

GRACE

(<SNICKERS>, then)
Have fun, Ruthie, honey!

RUTHIE

Oh, I will. That's why I brought this whimsical number...

Ruthie snaps on a "Honk if you love Oboes" fanny pack.

RUTHIE (CONT'D)

My favorite "Honk If You Love Oboes" hip sack.

MIDGE drives by on a MOBILITY SCOOTER <HONKS>. <WHOO OBOES!> Sunny and Grace rush out, leaving Scott, Becker, Hailey, and Ruthie to sit in cringey awkwardness.

HAILEY

So, do you have any hobbies?

RUTHIE

Of course. I enjoy sitting quietly and labeling.

Ruthie slaps a label on Scott labeled "TEEN."

RUTHIE (CONT'D)

Anyone want to hear about my oral hygiene routine?

BECKER

That's it! One Space Sludgie!

RUTHIE

What's a... Space Sludgie?

SCOTT

Only the coldest, tastiest drink on our great green Earth! Although it contains no natural ingredients from our great green Earth.

(MORE)

SCOTT (CONT'D)
 Kristine, Space Sludgies for the
 whole table, please!

RUTHIE
 Are they healthy?

SCOTT
 Of course! I drink them every day,
 and I'm completely fine.

Scott smiles and a TOOTH falls out.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
 Oh man, another tooth? Anyway, I'm
 sure that has nothing to do with
 all the sludgies I drink.

He puts the tooth back as Kristine arrives with SLUDGIES.

KRISTINE
 Here ya go, Besties!

RUTHIE
 As your guest, I suppose it would
 be rude not to try one sip.
 (slurps tentatively)
 This is...
 (her eyes widen)
 The single greatest thing to ever
 touch my lips! I love it!

They all TOAST, kicking off a MONTAGE of shots:

- Hailey showing Ruthie how to play the FOOD-THEMED CLAW MACHINE while Scott rides the mobility scooter.
- DARRYL showing them how to toss pizza dough. Hailey tosses one pizza, and it never comes down.
- Dancing **Breakfast Club**-style on the pizza buffet.
- Ruthie is back at the claw machine. The claw comes up empty and she bangs the glass, then swipes the game card several more times.
- Everyone has BLUE LIPS, as they crank the sludgie machine to "Super Frozen" and everyone drinking straight out of the nozzle. This is when things get super slo-mo and fuzzy...

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - THE NEXT MORNING

Scott and Hailey wake up on the beach with blue lips, surrounded by <BARKING> SEA LIONS, feeling the remnants of a bad brain freeze.

HAILEY
What happened? Why does my head
have a heartbeat?

SCOTT
And why is a sea lion licking me?

HAILEY
Because you're covered in food.
And so am I!

SCOTT
Are these tattoos? What does this
say?

Hailey squints to read the temporary heart tattoo on his arm.

HAILEY
"I love Hai..."

Scott starts to panic, but Hailey wipes off some mustard, revealing it says, "I love Hairy Spiders."

HAILEY (CONT'D)
"...ry spiders."

SCOTT
Oh! I do love Hairy Spiders!
Insect-related tattoos are the
best!

Hailey pulls out Ruthie's "Honk if you love Oboes" sack.

HAILEY
Isn't this Ruthie's bag?

A boat drives by and <HONKS> <ALL RIGHT, OBOES!>.

SCOTT
But where is Ruthie? RUTHIE???
RUTHIE!! Dude, where's my cousin!

A LUMP OF SEAWEED sits up to reveal Becker was also asleep.

BECKER
Not so fast, Dragon. I've got
jelly, and ain't afraid to use it!
(snaps out of it)
(MORE)

BECKER (CONT'D)

Whoa, I was having the craziest dream! How did I get here?

HAILEY

We were going to ask you the same question. Ruthie's missing. What's the last thing you remember?

BECKER

Mom leaving, sludgies, and--<WHOA!>

Just then, a sea lion arises from where she's seated, and it takes off running around the beach with her on top. Hailey checks her phone.

HAILEY

Looks like I made a bunch of calls to Beta last night. Maybe he knows what happened.

Hailey dials as Becker continues to <WHOOAAA> in the B.G.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Beta, in bed, whips off an eye mask angrily.

BETA

You better be calling to apologize, Hailey Banks! Thanks to your prank calls last night, I didn't get any beauty rest!

HAILEY

We prank called you? We got crazy brain freezes from Space Sludgies, and we can't remember anything!

BETA

You know what they say: You lie down with the fishes; you'll wake up and stink.

HAILEY

Literally, no one says that. Beta, this is serious! Scott's cousin Ruthie is missing!

BETA

That seems like a Buffoon problem and not a sleepy Beta problem.

Beta hangs up.

HAILEY

Gah! He was no help. Come on!
We've got to retrace our steps.
Let's go back to the last place we
remember seeing Ruthie.

INT. U.F.DOUGH - DAY

They swing the door open, and the place is a mess! Kristine pulls a RUBBER CHICKEN and a SHOE out of the salad bar.

KRISTINE

What a night, huh? Your cousin was
the life of the party!

BECKER

Really? Ruthie? Yay high, pig
tails, resting bored face?

HAILEY

(faking it)

She sure was! Kristine, what do
YOU remember about last night?

KRISTINE

You were all having a blast hanging
out and guzzling Space Sludgies
until you ran out of money.

SCOTT

And Ruthie?

KRISTINE

The last thing I remember was her
riding Scott like a pony and
yelling "Let's get that cheddar!"

SCOTT

What does that mean?

Hailey opens Ruthie's sack and takes out a bundle of money.

HAILEY

Maybe she meant money! Here's \$400
wrapped around a flyer for an open
mic contest at the Angery Aardvark.
That must be where we went next!

INT. ANGERY AARDVARK CLUB - MINUTES LATER

Hailey, Scott and Becker walk into the club. A broken
VENDING MACHINE labeled "Temporary Tattoos" spews TATTOOS.

HAILEY

Figured out where we got the tats!

THACHER arises from a pile of INSTRUMENTS with a <CLATTER>.

THACHER

Hey! It's Worm Girl, Slam Dancer,
and Top Spin! You guys rocked it
hardcore last night.

HAILEY

I don't know what any of that
means, but thanks, Thacher. By the
way, did you see us with a little
girl last night?

THACHER

Everyone saw you with that little
girl! You've gone viral!

Thacher pulls out his cracked phone, and we SNAP ZOOM into
the video playing on it:

INT. ANGERY AARDVARK CLUB - VIRAL VIDEO - INTERCUT

*Ruthie plays the oboe and rocks out with SCORN HUSK in an
epic "hair band" performance. The crowd goes wild.*

SCOTT

Look at Ruthie!

BECKER

She's NOT boring!

*Hailey does the Worm while the audience chants <"Worm Girl!
Worm Girl!"> Scott parkours and crowd-surfs, and Becker
spins on her head. In a big finish, Ruthie smashes her oboe!*

THACHER (ON SCREEN)

**The winner of open mic night and
\$500 is Ruthie the Rock Goddess!**

SCOTT

Rock Goddess?

RUTHIE (ON SCREEN)

Whooo! Now let's get that cheddar!

The video ends.

HAILEY

Did you see where we went after?

THACHER
No, I was busy uploading this gem
to Photodump. 17 views! It's
blowing up!

Scott's phone <RINGS>.

SCOTT
Oh no! It's Mom!

They all rush outside to answer it on speaker.

EXT. ANGRY AARDVARK - CONTINUOUS

SCOTT
Hi Mom! Everything is fine! We
definitely didn't lose anybody!

SUNNY (ON SPEAKER)
And I definitely didn't lose half
your college savings. Wait, what
did you say?

SCOTT
What did YOU say?

GRACE (ON SPEAKER)
Scott? It's Imo Grace. Can I
speak to Ruthie?

SCOTT
Uh, sure.
(In a Ruthie voice)
Hello, Mother.

GRACE (ON SPEAKER)
What happened to your voice?

Becker covers Scott's mouth with her hand.

BECKER
She's just a little horse from
practicing her oboe so much!

GRACE (ON SPEAKER)
Ah okay! Just letting you know
we're on our way home.

SCOTT (RUTHIE VOICE)
Ok! Sounds good. I'm definitely
not panicking!

Scott hangs up.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
I'm definitely panicking!

HAILEY
We need more clues. Where's
Ruthie's bag?

Becker holds up Ruthie's "Honk if you Love Oboes" hip pack. A car passing on the street <HONKS>. <YEAH, OBOES!>

BECKER
Who knew so many people love oboes?

HAILEY
If the money wasn't the "cheddar,"
what else could Ruthie have been
talking about?

At that very moment, a giant sign lights up outside DELI RUBS, advertising ***The Ultimate Cheese Explosion Sandwich.***

HAILEY (CONT'D)
The Ultimate Cheese Explosion
Sandwich! I think we have our
answer...

INT. DELI RUBS - MINUTES LATER

Becker, Hailey and Scott open the door to Deli Rubs to reveal it's a complete disaster: condiments drip off the walls, melted cheese globs fall from the ceiling. A frowning PEANUT BUTTER PAM rides a floor-cleaning ZAMBONI.

PEANUT BUTTER PAM
Well, well, well. Look who
returned to the scene of the crime!

BECKER
Crime? This is a massacre.

SCOTT
Peanut Butter Pam, did we do this?

PEANUT BUTTER PAM
Don't bother denying it! That's
right out of ***my*** playbook.

Pam pushes a button on a REMOTE CONTROL, cueing security camera footage to play on a TV screen.

INT. DELI RUBS - SECURITY CAM FOOTAGE - INTERCUT

Ruthie tosses up cheesy, loaded sandwiches.

RUTHIE (ON SCREEN)
*Serve's up! Ten Ultimate Cheese
 Explosion Sandwiches exploding!*

*She smacks them with a frying pan, spraying the people with
 goo. They land perfectly on plates. Hailey, Scott, and
 Becker devour them, along with more sludgies.*

HAILEY
 She has a nice serve.

SCOTT
 Our cousin is AWESOME!

PEANUT BUTTER PAM
 This is when things got BANANAS!

VIDEO: *Ruthie serves up BANANAS and ice cream rapid-fire,
 which land perfectly in dishes. Patrons slurp that up too.
 Ruthie takes a bite of banana and <BELCHES>.*

BECKER
 Um, is she my new best friend?!

HAILEY
 Did you see where we went after?

PEANUT BUTTER PAM
 Nope! But I did hear a hullabaloo
 outside. It was louder than the
 time I blasted open that safe.

HAILEY
 You what?

PEANUT BUTTER PAM
 Mind your business!

Pam slams the door on their faces.

EXT. DELI RUBS - CONTINUOUS

SCOTT
 I can't believe it! Ruthie is
 actually FUN!

Becker hangs back practicing her tennis swings. Hailey walks
 into the middle of the street and spots another SECURITY
 CAMERA outside. She takes out her phone and calls...

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

...Beta who's in the middle of erasing prank calls.

HAILEY (ON VOICEMAIL)
Hey Beta! Is your operating system running? Then you better go catch it! Hahahahahaha-

BETA
 <PFF> Not even that funny. Delete.
 (his face rings)
 How dare you--

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION

HAILEY
 Beta! Don't hang up. I'm so sorry about whatever hilarious prank calls we made to you. But we **really** need your help!

BETA
 And what if I don't help you?

HAILEY
 There's a good chance Scott and I will be grounded for life, never complete the list, and the world will collapse into an evil inferno!

BETA
 Oh, **you're** playing the evil inferno card?

HAILEY
 Look, we just need a big, strong, mega-computer to help us out, so I thought of you. But if you don't think you can do it...

BETA
 (sighs, then)
 Fine. What do you need?

HAILEY
 Could you **lightly** hack into the security cam outside Deli Rubs and send me the video from last night?

BETA
 Pff, that's it? I did that 30 seconds after the last time we talked.

(MORE)

BETA (CONT'D)

All relevant security footage is sitting in your cloud drive. You forget I am a genius--

HAILEY

Got it, thanks!

Hailey hangs up. Beta <GRUMBLES> and plays another VM.

HAILEY (ON VOICEMAIL) (CONT'D)

Hello, Beta. Do you know why a duck has tailfeathers? To cover his butt-quack! Hahahahahahaha-

Beta <GRUMBLES> and deletes.

EXT. DELI RUBS - CONTINUOUS

Hailey shows Scott and Becker her phone.

HAILEY

Scott! Becker! Look at this!

EXT. DELI RUBS - SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE - INTERCUT

The four kids exit Deli Rubs when CHARLIE THE PELICAN swoops down and steals Ruthie's hip pack with the cash! Hailey, Scott, and Becker <SCREAM> and chase after him.

HAILEY (RE: PHONE FOOTAGE)

We're all headed to the beach! But look at Ruthie!

Ruthie runs in the other direction.

RUTHIE (ON VIDEO)

I'm finally getting that cheddar!

BECKER

This is hopeless. I'm just going to call mom to confess. Tell her it's all Scott's fault to lighten my sentence.

Becker dials.

SCOTT

The "cheddar" wasn't money. It wasn't actual cheese. What else could it be?

Hailey's POV shot: Pam is CLAWING at tuna salad in the deli

counter. WHIP PAN: a construction EXCAVATOR is CLAWING at some dirt. In a "Beautiful Mind" moment we SNAP ZOOM into Hailey's thoughts as Pam's hand and the excavator morph into the CLAW from the CLAW MACHINE.

HAILEY

The Space Sludgies made Ruthie break her own rules. Fun food, then loud music. There's only one rule left. No games of chance. I know exactly where she is!

Hailey knocks the phone out of Becker's hand and runs off.

BECKER

You could have just asked me to get off the phone...

HARD CUT TO:

INT. U.F.DOUGH - MOMENTS LATER

REVEAL: Ruthie is sound asleep inside the claw machine, clutching a large BLOCK OF CHEESE STUFFIE!

SCOTT

Aw, she finally got her cheddar.

HAILEY

She must've crawled inside to get that stuffie and then fell asleep!

BECKER

Mom and Imo Grace just parked!
(off their looks)
I have a tracker on her car so she can't catch me doing stuff.

HAILEY

This game's too hard, we'll never get her out in time!

BECKER

Move aside. I got this.

Becker hot-wires the back of the machine and takes control. CLOSE UP OF THE CLAW. Becker hooks Ruthie's shirt and gently lifts her out. Ruthie slides out the machine and wakes up.

RUTHIE

Look, I finally got my cheddar! Thanks for a great time last night. You're all so fun! I'm sorry I thought you guys were so boring.

SCOTT
You're not so bad yourself-- Wait,
you thought **we** were boring?

BECKER
You can hang out with us anytime,
Ruthie.

The door opens, and Grace and Sunny enter looking bedraggled,
wearing party BEADS and carrying empty YARDSTICK CUPS.

GRACE
Ruthie! You won the claw game!

SUNNY
I thought I greased that claw last
week. Is there anything Ruthie
can't do?

BECKER
Stay with the group?

RUTHIE
Mom, listen to everything that
happened last night...
(Becker and Scott <GULP>)
We had the best time! They showed
me all around town. I played my
oboe for everyone. And I even fit
in some tennis practice!

GRACE
Scott, Becker, thank you.
(to Sunny)
You know, I've always been secretly
jealous of how fun and perfect your
kids are.

SUNNY
I just told them to be themselves!

Sunny winks at Scott and Becker who are relieved. Hailey can
barely contain her smile.

As Ruthie leaves, we see the back of her head is shaved and
she has a huge neck tattoo that reads **Rock Goddess**. Hailey
and Scott look at each other, wide eyed. Then, the pizza
Darryl threw to the ceiling the night before finally falls
with a <SPLAT>. And we...

FADE OUT.